

SPEECH OF THE GRAND MASTER TO THE POSTULANTS

**Chateau Bela, Slovakia
26th June 2021**

Dear Postulants,

This is the 2nd Ceremony that we are able to celebrate since the outbreak of the COVID-19, two years ago, and even today we have to observe limitations and preventive measures.

In reality, these have been terrible times: it seems that we fall asleep one day in one World and we woke up the next day in another different and strange World. During these hard times we have learned several lessons: We learned that money, power, social status and important titles or positions are irrelevant and do not make people immune to a simple virus, we have learned that both in a 3 million Euro house or in a small apartment, the loneliness caused by the Confinement is the same, we learned that either on a 10 thousand Euros watch or on a 50 Euros watch the time of the confinement and of the isolation from our friends and dear ones, is the same. We have also seen everywhere tragedies in so many families caused by a simple virus and we all have experienced many totally unexpected changes in our lives, some of these changes were very dramatic.

Things are very different now of what they were 2 years ago, but is this a mere change or is it an evolution conditioned by the circumstances?

The truth is that the crisis forced us to a very fast evolution and nothing remains the same as before, with one exception: PEOPLE, because we are the same persons and we continue having the same principles as before, we only adapted ourselves to new realities and what happened to each one of us now, has also happened during the centuries to our Sovereign Order and State. It happened in the past and continues happening in the present, because we evolved from a Medieval Order of Knights to a 21 century Knightly Order.

We evolved, but our principles remain the same.

In fact, our Sovereign Order and State has lasted for about 1000 years because it is based in good and sound principles that are timeless, not in perishable interests of the moment, and this is why we still exist, and this is why you are here today to become Knights.

This is also why we have expanded so much and now we exist in more than 100 countries and the main reason for this expansion is that for us there is a difference between “Human Being” and “Being human”, and it is because we are human beings who continue being human, that we are a very respected and admired humanitarian Order that exists to serve the Humans, without any discrimination at all, and we are a State that strictly respects the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights.

Dalai Lama said once that *“People were created to be loved. Things were created to be used. The reason why the world is in chaos is because things are being loved and people are being used.”* This is true but we, as Knights of Saint John, as Knights of Malta, we have always been working guided by the love for the people. We know that there is no better life without a better education for all without distinction. Remember that many years ago was shameful to be illiterate and presently the majority of the people can read and write but they don't do it and the media, the movies, TV shows, videos, etc., are made to entertain, no longer to educate, so we risk that the dominant class of our times will be dominated by its lack of culture and by its illiteracy.

If we want to leave a better World to our children, first we have to leave better children to our World, and for this we have to fight, but not against anyone, instead we fight for our objectives of helping those who are ill or in need, we fight for better Health Care, we fight for better Education and more Culture, we fight for a better Environment and we fight for Peace and Security.

So, Dear Postulants, you are today to join us in our noble fight, and this fight - because it is a noble fight will be your title of nobility - but never forget that a Knight of St John, a knight of Malta must be like a tree:

- Never forget your roots
- Grow in life Straight, vertical, proud and without fear
- Don't deny your fruits to those who are starving, nor your shade to those who need shelter
- Contribute positively to the Environment and never forget that lies can give flowers but they will never give fruits.
- Even after dying continue projecting your shade

If you are ready for this, then, by having you with us, our Order and our State will be richer and even more noble, because you are the true nobles of the 21st Century.

If you are ready to embrace this, be welcome among us.